



State Rehabilitation Council Fall Report

09/24/18

Clarification

There is a correction that needs to be clarified from the last report. Hopefully most of you have seen the email adjusting the actual expense of the 2018 Summer Conference expenses. The total expense for the NYLC Summer Conference was \$8531.22. The estimate I gave in the prior report was \$14,000 roughly, which was a high over estimate. The breakdown of the \$8531.22 is as follows: Hotel Lodging (one night [10 youth, one adult, three no shows]) = \$1609.30; Meals = \$1421.27; Facility Rental Charge (Includes AV Equipment) = \$525.00; Guest Speakers = \$3200; T-shirts = \$181.30 & Mileage Reimbursement = \$1528.10.

Update

One of two fall meetings have been completed in every council to date. A few meetings were rescheduled, which resulted in one youth Forrest Burroughs coming to a meeting one week earlier than when it was scheduled. Some strategies that will improve this will be an updated calendar of NYLC events, including meetings on the new website, mailing updated meeting letters whenever a date is changed, giving reminders of meetings on the NYLC Facebook Page and posting meetings on the events tab on the Facebook page.

For the Fall Central and Northeast Council Meetings, video was taken of a teambuilding activity to show youth that meetings are not about sitting and talking. Please go to the NYLC Facebook page [@NYLCNebraska](#) to check out the video. I also tried to post it to this report. Click [here](#) to see the video. If it does not work, a person would have better luck going to the Facebook page and scrolling down until you see the post-dated August 27th at 4:20 pm.

The Marketing Flyer Committee met for a final meeting in the beginning of August. Some great changes were proposed to the flyer from this committee meeting. One change is including much more information when mailing in a perforated edge with contact information on it. The flyer will include parent name, parent email, parent phone number, teacher name and teacher email. Including this on the flyer will allow teachers and parents to be included when applying for the NYLC. Some NYLC members have stated if it was not for a teacher pushing them to join, getting in the application and filling it out at school, the council member may never have joined. Another change is the inclusion of social media to the flyer. Now youth will be able to take a picture of the snapcode, messenger code or see NYLC is on Instagram to also get connected with the NYLC. The last addition is changing the photos to more current photos. Once Jessica's testimonial is received and Jessica's senior picture is added to the flyer, then it will be printed for distribution.

Another exciting addition is the website being updated. Bryanna McAuley volunteered to work on content development, because one of her strengths is writing. This may take a while before the website is ready for public view. Click [here](#) to see the offline website. Key features will be the Google Calendar of Events, easy access to the NYLC promotional video, plus it being played in the background, an apply button for an easy way to access the application, and a contact us section which will get sent to me, Tresa Christensen-NYLC associate, and one State Council Member. This will allow us to communicate with whomever wants to get more information about the NYLC.

One last update is NYLC business cards. Michael Hruska worked with Sandy Ham and Sarah Chapin to develop a business card for council members. Also included in this report is a sample business card with Michael's information. No phone number will be included on the business card, unless a council member requests it, which Michael has been discouraging them from doing. Reason for this is to provide a sense of safety for the council members. On the front it has contact information. A Central Council Member, Connor Sonderup, a newer member came up with the tagline at the bottom of the card which is "Disability Advocates and Leaders of Today." On back is the same social media which is also on the flyer. Social media is the communication style of younger generations, which makes sense to include it on the business card. All council members really enjoy the cards and are happy with its design.

NYLC Leadership Meeting

Friday, September 21, 2018, a meeting with Office of Special Education and Nebraska VR Leadership discussed challenges and future directions of the NYLC. Those present were Michael Hruska-NYLC Facilitator, Tresa Christensen-NYLC Associate, Brigid Griffin-VR Program Director for Transition, Amy Rhone-Assistant Director of Special Education and Alice Senseney-Education Specialist III under the Office of Special Education (in charge of transition side of special education).

The proposal for the NYLC was finalized while at this meeting, with some further steps needing to take place. Office of Special Education will again provide \$50,000 and Nebraska VR will provide \$50,000, for a total of \$100,000 budget for the October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019 NYLC program. The budget is included as a separate attachment to this report for your viewing.

One area to report on is the challenge of finding a less expensive venue for the Summer Conference. NYLC council members are NOT covered under the Nebraska Department of Education's Certificate of Liability. Michael Hruska is exploring hosting the summer conference at University of Nebraska-Kearney (UNK). UNK requires a "Certificate of Insurance," which includes \$1,000,000 general liability per occurrence coverage and \$3,000,000 aggregate that names the "Board of Regents" of the University of Nebraska as an additional insured. By having UNK as a location, for lodging alone, the total savings cost would be \$92.95 per council member. Alice and Amy agreed to work on this together, trying to find a location that may work. Another reason for UNK, just like the Holiday Inn in Kearney, it is a

centrally located position. Alice, Amy and Brigid believe that if it was taken to legal, that no movement would come of it.

Other ideas mentioned were getting structure of the Office of Special Education side of the funding. Working with Alumni of the NYLC was discussed. Since NYLC funds come out of Pre-Employment Transitions Service funds, which normally go until age 21, it was decided that working with alumni is not a direction that NYLC will go. Some National Youth Leadership Forums in other states do have Alumni events, but most other states do not go up to age 24 for their Youth Leadership Forum. NYLC goes until age 24, meaning the youth age out at age 25. Alumni can be paid as speakers at the Summer Conference, which is a contract agreement, not as a youth council member. One other idea was creating a fund-raising campaign or managing fund raising to pay for things such as food, drink, snacks, or other expenses that the NYLC cannot fund because of being managed by a state agency. This will not happen, because Michael Hruska would not have any authority to manage the funds, a youth would need to manage the funds, and creating a structure on how to use and manage the funds would need to be created. Two other ideas that opposed this were having youth go door to door, which is a risk to their safety and justifying the fund raising for food, snacks, drinks, to the general public as a reason to fund raise. An alternative was to find a partner agency or group willing to donate funds for these reasons.

NYLC Presentations

Northeast Council Member Sydney Ziemba presented twice at Administrator's Day in Kearney, Nebraska. This was in front of superintendents, principals, School Board members and other decision makers in the public school setting. Highlights from this presentation were Sydney's Principal Bill Curry reporting seeing change in Sydney's willingness to help younger students, participating much more in class, also being outspoken, contributing most of this to being a part of the Nebraska Youth Leadership Council. Sydney had a picture taken with Superintendent Chip Kay of Shelby-Rising Public Schools and Denise Glock, Sydney's Elementary Teacher. They were both very proud of her ability to present in an eloquent and professional manner in front of so many adults. On the next page is Sydney's picture with the two of them.



Another presentation occurred at Goodwill Industries Coop Program Youth. These youth experience a behavior health diagnosis, receiving job placement and support services to learn work skills.

Not as many presentations happened over the summer after the summer conference due to schools not being in session. A lot more NYLC Presentations will be happening in the fall and winter.